

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0293

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: PEOPLE'S DAILY CASTIGATES "THEORISTS" OF "WIND FACTION"

1. SUMMARY. A JANUARY 31 PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE DEVELOPS FURTHER THE CONTINUING CAMPAIGN AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE "WIND", "SLIPPERY" AND "EARTHQUAKE" FACTIONS. ZEROING IN ON "THEORISTS" OF THE "SHIFTING WITH THE WINDS" FACTION, THE ARTICLE INCORPORATES SPECIFIC QUOTATIONS FROM A PERSON DESCRIBED AS THE "ADVISOR TO LIANG HSIAO." THE PERSON UNDER ATTACK IS CLEARLY A PERSON WHO HAS LONG WORKED AS A "THEORIST" OR LITERARY FIGURE, HAS CONNECTIONS TO PEKING UNIVERSITY, AND HAS OPPORTUNISTICALLY SHIFTED HIS LINE ACCORDING TO THE PREVAILING POLITICAL WINDS. OBVIOUS TARGETS WOULD INCLUDE HISTORIAN FENG YU-LAN AND POET KUO MO-JO -- BUT THEIR ADVANCED AGE OUGHT TO EXEMPT THEM FROM SUCH SNIPING EVEN IN THE CURRENT HIGHLY-CHARGED POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE. END SUMMARY.

2. AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED UNDER THE BYLINE YUAN SHU-CHUAN ON PAGE TWO OF THE JANUARY 31 PEOPLE'S DAILY CONTINUES THE

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PRESSURE AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE "SHIFTING WITH THE WINDS," "SLIPPERY," AND "EARTHQUAKE FACTIONS." ZEROING IN ON "THEORISTS" OF THE "SHIFTING WITH THE WINDS" FACTION, THE ARTICLE DESCRIBES THE TARGETS AS THOSE WHO "FOR MAY YEARS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THEORETICAL WORK, WHO ARE NOT AL ALL STRANGERS TO THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF MARXISM-LENINISM." DESPITE THEIR FAMILIARITY WITH MARXISM-LENINISM, HOWEVER,

SUCH PERSONS HAD TRIMMED THEIR COURSE ACCORDING TO THE PREVAILING POLITICAL WINDS FOR MANY YEARS.

3. THE ARTICLE PROVIDES DIRECT QUOTATIONS FROM SUCH PERSONS WHICH ARE DOUBTLESS WELL-KNOWN TO THE POLITICALLY AWARE IN CHINA. DURING THE PERIOD OF LIN PIAO, "THERE WERE PERSONS WHO MADE REPORTS STATING 'THE 7-CHARACTER CLASSIC IS A TREASURE, ONE CANNOT DISPENSE WITH ONE CHARACTER, ONE CANNOT BE KNOCKED OVER BY ADHERING TO IT.'" IN 1975 THEY (HE) HAD ALTERNATELY PRAISED CHAIRMAN MAO'S "THREE DIRECTIVES" AS "INTERRELATED" AND ATTACKED TENG HSIAO-PING A FEW MONTHS LATER FOR HIS "ECLECTICISM" IN SAYING THAT THE THREE DIRECTIVES WERE INTERRELATED. THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO STATE THAT "EVERYONE WILL RECALL" HOW AT "THEORETICAL FORUMS" CONVENED IN PEKING THERE WERE PERSONS WHO ADVOCATED THE "THEORY OF THREE STAGES" WHICH TRANSFORMED OLD CADRES INTO CAPITALIST ROADERS. AND, THE MOST TELLING PASSAGE, THE ARTICLE DECLARES: "THAT ADVISOR OF LIANG HSIAO (THE PSEUDONYM UTILIZED BY THE GANG OF FOUR'S WRITING GROUP AT PEKING UNIVERSITY) FOR MANY YEARS HAS CONTINUOUSLY ALTERED HIS FEATURES BETWEEN THE KMT AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY, BETWEEN REVERING CONFUCIUS AND CRITICIZING CONFUCIUS. IN THE PAST HE RESPECTED AND WAS LOYAL TO THE 'CHIANG (KAI-SHEK) EMPIRE, TODAY HE HAS SOLD HIMSELF TO THE 'FEMALE EMPRESS' (I.E. CHIANG CHING), HE IS A VETERAN MEMBER OF THE SHIFTING WITH THE WINDS FACTION."

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4. IN CONTRAST, THE ARTICLE POINTS TO MANY THEORETICAL WORKERS WHO REMAINED MUTE DURING THE GANG OF FOUR ERA, WHO REFUSED TO LIFT THEIR PENS ON BEHALF OF THE GANG, AND WHO WERE NOT AFRAID OF ATTACKING THE GANG AND PERSEVERING IN THE CORRECT LINE.

5. COMMENT: THE PHRASING OF THE ARTICLE AND THE HISTORY CITED EVOKE IMMEDIATELY THE IMAGES OF COTOGENARIAN HISTORIAN FENG YU-LAN AND NONAGENARIAN POET KUO MO-JO. BOTH SHIFTED LINES ACCORDING TO EVERY TWIST AND TURN OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS OVER THE PAST THREE DECADES (SEE SIMON LEYS FOR PARTICULARLY ACID REMARKS ON KUO MO-JO), BOTH PRAISED CHAING CHING IN PRINT DURING THE 1974-75 CRITICIZE-LIN CRITICIZE-CONFUCIUS MOVEMENT, AND BOTH HAVE FIRM LINKS TO PEKING UNIVERSITY AND THE LIANG HSIAO WRITING GROUP (ESPECIALLY FENG YU-LAN). THE ONLY QUESTION IS WHY SUCH PERSONS -- AGED AND POLITICAL EUNUCHS -- SHOULD BE ATTACKED, EVEN IN THE CURRENT SUPERCHARGED POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE ON THE EVEN OF THE 5TH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS. ASSUMING THAT THEY, OR PERSONS LIKE THEM, ARE INDEED THE TARGETS, WE PRESUME THAT THEIR PROTECTORS -- PERHAPS ON THE PEKING MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE --

ARE THE TRUE ULTIMATE TARGETS.

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